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What is feng shui (pronounced “fung shway”)? No doubt you have probably heard the following:

Feng Shui is an Art of Placement

Feng Shui is Interior Design and painting walls certain colors to enhance wealth, relationships, fame

Feng Shui is about decorating your house with good luck objects

Feng Shui is about clearing your clutter.

Feng Shui is about living in harmony with nature

Which one of these is correct? It’s actually simpler to start with the incorrect concepts.

Feng Shui is definitely not the art of decorating your home with good luck objects (e.g., bamboo, money frogs, ceramic lotus figurines, etc.) The Chinese used good luck objects as a part of culture and were never used in the context of ‘Feng Shui’. It is not about what type of furniture you buy, and where they are placed, nor is it about what colors certain walls are painted to enhance wealth, fame, relationships, career, etc. This was a new concept introduced and passed off as Feng Shui in the 90s. Interior Design is not Feng Shui. Nor is Feng Shui about clearing your clutter. This is called Organization. The forces that Feng Shui deals with exert their influences on the occupants of the home regardless of whether the house is clean or not. Feng Shui is not about living in harmony with nature either.

While it is true that Feng Shui is about "harmonizing", the question becomes ...what is it we are trying to harmonize?

The Chinese have five categories of study in the world of Chinese Metaphysics - (known as the Chinese Five Arts - Wu Shu), Feng Shui is classified under physiognomy of the living environment. Physiognomy refers to observation of appearances through formulae and calculations in order to assess the potential and outcome of a person living in a certain property.

Feng Shui is a metaphysical science where one learns to recognize, tap into and harness the Qi (cosmic energies) of the living environment to make informed decisions that help achieve specific goals in everyday lives. There is the art of "assessing" the quality of life through observations and analysis of a person's living environment and the art of “predicting/forecasting”.

Practitioners of Feng Shui are able to assess and forecast outcomes for people based on:

Their date of birth (kua)

The cyclical/timely influence of Qi

The directional and locational influences upon a particular living environment

If you know the types of Qi that will affect the environment in certain months of the year, one can prepare for the best or worst of the situation. In a sense, Feng Shui is about divining the fortune of one’s living space.

Feng Shui is part of a cosmic trinity. One must use one’s spiritual practice (heaven luck), right choice (man luck), and work with the living environment (earth luck- this is the field of Feng Shui) to achieve life goals. Feng Shui provides the opportunity to be informed so that the equation may tilt in your favor.